

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Original) A pretreating agent for electroless plating comprising a noble metal soap of a fatty acid having 5 to 25 carbon atoms.

2. (Original) The pretreating agent for electroless plating according to Claim 1, further comprising a silane coupling agent having a functional group with metal capturing ability in the molecule.

3. (Original) The pretreating agent for electroless plating according to Claim 2, wherein the silane coupling agent is a silane coupling agent obtained by reacting an azole compound or amine compound with an epoxysilane compound.

4. (Currently Amended) The pretreating agent for electroless plating according to Claim 2 ~~or 3~~, wherein the functional group with metal capturing ability is an imidazole group.

5. (Currently Amended) The pretreating agent for electroless plating according to ~~any one of Claims 1 through 4~~Claim 1, wherein the noble metal soap is a palladium soap.

6. (Currently Amended) The pretreating agent for electroless plating according to ~~any one of Claims 1 through 5~~Claim 1, wherein the noble metal soap is palladium naphthenate, palladium neodecanate or palladium octylate.

7. (Currently Amended) An ink composition comprising the pretreating agent for electroless plating according to ~~any one of Claims 1 through 6~~Claim 1.

8. (Currently Amended) An electroless plating method, wherein an object to be plated is pre-treated with the pretreating agent for electroless plating or ink composition according to ~~any one of Claims 1 through 7~~Claim 1 and then electroless plated.

9. (Original) The electroless plating method according to Claim 8, wherein pre-treatment with the ink composition is drawing with an inkjet.

10. (Currently Amended) A plated product obtained by performing the electroless plating method according to Claim 8 ~~or 9~~ on the object.